



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Wildlife Enhancement Activity EHM 24 – Reflooding of Cropland

### **Providing Reflooded Cropland to Enhance Waterbird Migration Habitat:**

Utilize annual seasonal flooding to create food and loafing areas for migrating wildlife on existing cropland.

### **Benefits:**

Provide migration and wintering habitat for migrating wading birds and waterfowl with annual reflooding of cropfields through pumping and associated water control structures.

### **Criteria for Reflooding Cropland:**

**Note: Compensation applies to flooded acres only.**

The producer will apply and maintain management actions specifically for improving migratory wildlife habitat.

- A minimum of 60 consecutive days of flooding between October 15 and March 30.
- Water levels must be maintained 1-18 inches in depth an average depth of 6 inches over 50% or more of the area being flooded.
- Area will be reflooded at least two out of every three years.
- No fall tillage or burning of residue prior to flooding. (Shredding crop stubble or rolling rice residue is not considered tillage.)

### **References:**

Eldridge, Jan. 1990. *Management of Habitat for Breeding and Migrating Shorebirds in the Midwest*, 13.2.14 *Fish and Wildlife Leaflet 13, Waterfowl Management Handbook*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington D.C. 6 pp. Available on the Internet at <http://www.mesc.usgs.gov/wmh/Default.htm>

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Fredrickson, Leigh H. and Frederic A. Reid. 1988. *Waterfowl Use of Wetland Complexes*, 13.2.1 *Fish and Wildlife Leaflet 13, Waterfowl Management Handbook*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D. C. 6pp. Available on the Internet at <http://www.mesc.usgs.gov/wmh/Default.htm>

Kelley, J.R. Jr., M.K. Laubhan, F.A. Reid, J.S. Wortham, and L.H. Fredrickson. 1990. *Options for Water-level Control in Developed Wetlands*, 13.4.8 *Fish and Wildlife Leaflet 13, Waterfowl Management Handbook*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington D.C. 8 pp. Available on the Internet at <http://www.mesc.usgs.gov/wmh/Default.htm>

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